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30 December 1965

SC No. 10528/65
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

THE SS-12

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ISCAP Appeal No. 2012-023, document 3
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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Current Intelligence

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SC No. 10528/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
30 December 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The SS-12

1. The Soviets have developed a 600-mile maximum range ballistic missile probably for support of Front-level operations. The missile--named SS-12 (formerly KY-2) by Western intelligence--has been test fired at Kapustin Yar 28 times since March 1964 and may currently be deployed. Crew training now is under way. Little is known about its characteristics, however. It is probably mobile, and available evidence suggests that it is a liquid-fuel, single-stage system with a nuclear payload capability. Test firings have been to ranges of 300-500 miles, the most recent on 15 December.

2. A mobile nuclear missile with the demonstrated range of the SS-12 would serve well in the role of a Front support weapon, supplementing the capabilities of tactical air units organic to a Front. Likely targets for the SS-12 would be major objectives--bridgeheads, beachheads, airfields, etc.,--major communications hubs, troop concentrations, and ports deep in the rear of the Front's area of influence.

3. A Front is the highest Soviet wartime level of operational command. A Front can include armies, separate divisions and regiments of the ground forces, its own air forces, and sometimes naval forces. Fronts, however, have no fixed organization and are formed on the basis of missions and situations. The closest approximation to a Front currently existing in the Soviet armed forces is the "group of forces" located in East Germany.

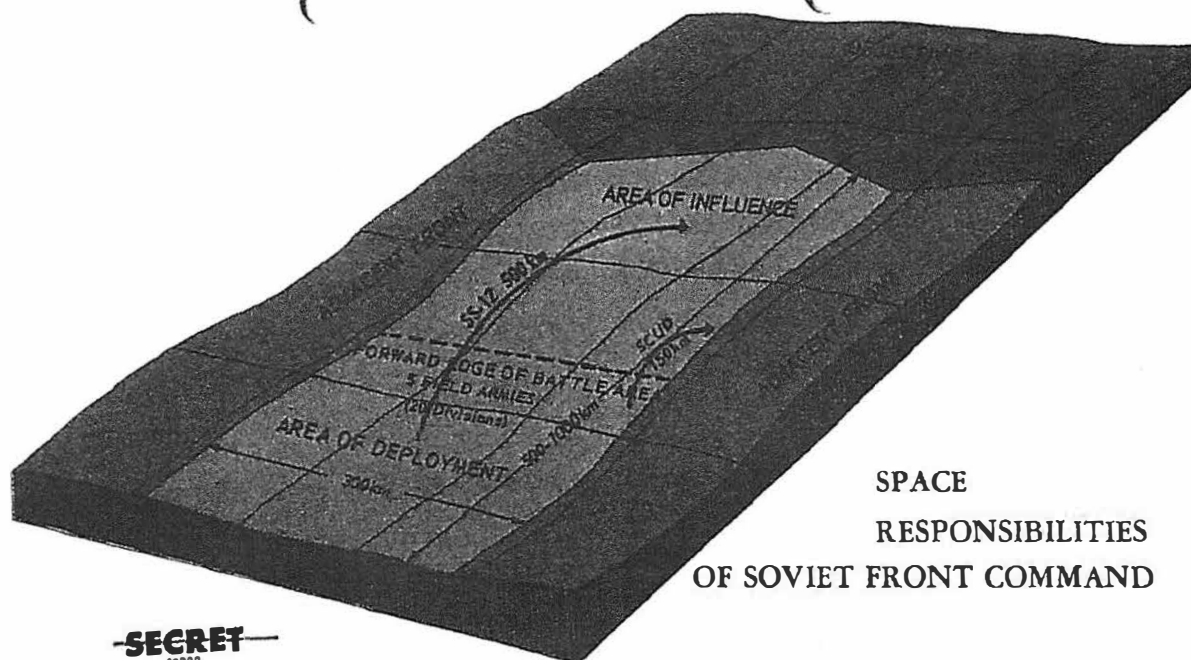
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4. A Front organized for combat on a main axis in Central Europe probably would comprise about 20 divisions organized into five field armies, plus organic air and missile support units. Such a Front would operate in a zone of action involving a width of 300 kilometers (185 miles) and a deployment depth of 400 to 600 kilometers (250-375 miles) with an area of responsibility extending from 500 to 1,000 kilometers (350-650 miles) ahead of the forward edge of the battle area.

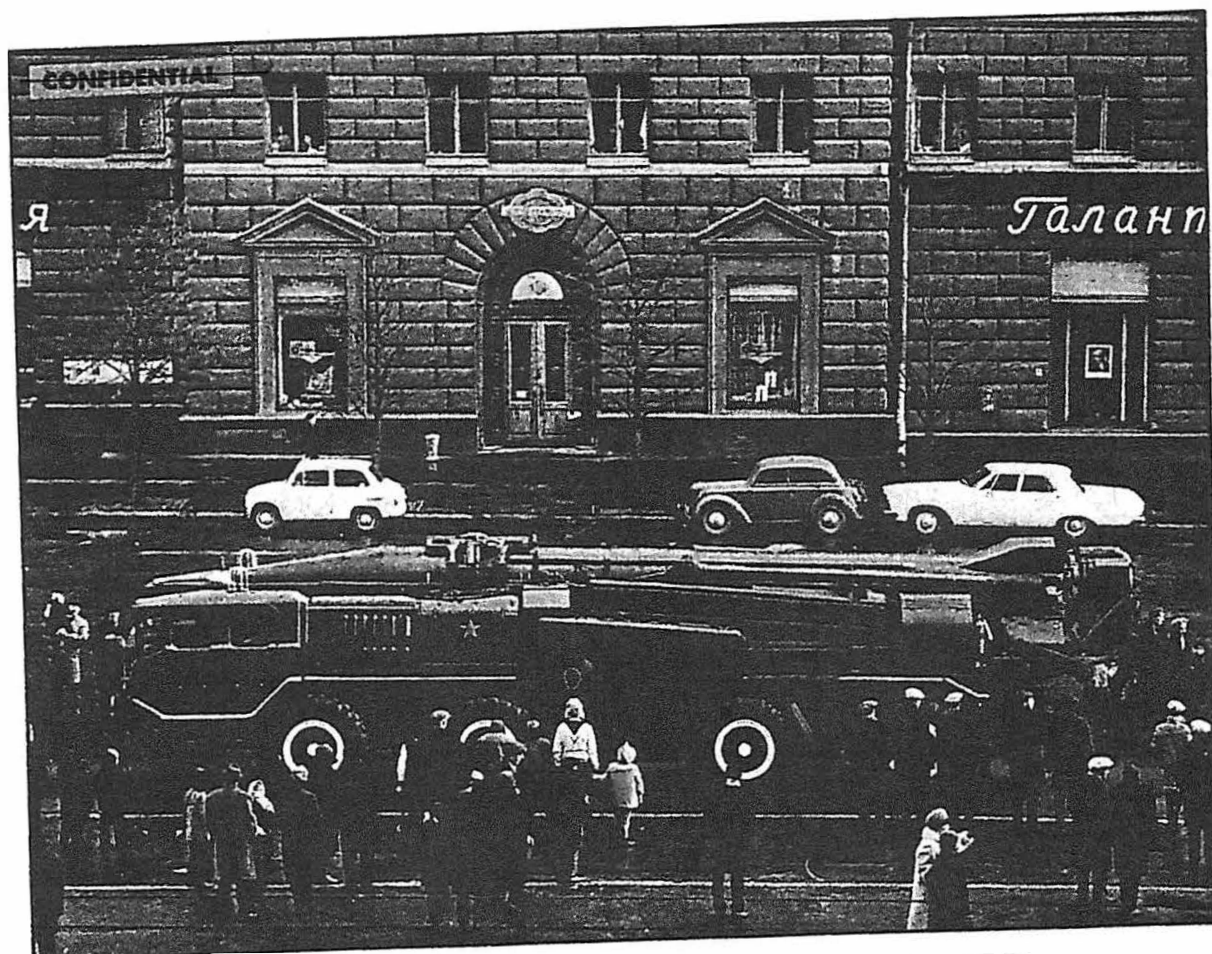
5. No information is available on the appearance of the SS-12. However, last November the Soviets displayed a new transporter-launcher for the 150-mile Scud tactical missile, one with wheels instead of the usual tank tracks. While the missile shown with this transporter in November was the standard liquid-fuel Scud B, the transporter appears capable of carrying a larger missile, possibly the SS-12 or a follow-on missile to the Scud.

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SPACE
RESPONSIBILITIES
OF SOVIET FRONT COMMAND

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SCUD - B WHEELED CARRIER, November 1965